



December 2005



# HALE AHI NEWS

**HFD QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER**  
October-December 2005

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## IMPORTANT DATES

- Sunday, January 1, 2006  
New Year's Day
- Monday, January 16, 2006  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Tuesday, January 17, 2006  
Change of Command Ceremony  
Honolulu Hale Courtyard  
10:00 a.m.
- Monday, February 20, 2006  
Presidents' Day Holiday
- Friday, March 10, 2006  
HFD Retirement Dinner  
Pacific Beach Hotel  
6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 25, 2006  
69th Annual HFD Credit Union  
Dinner  
Hilton Hawaiian Village  
Coral Ballroom  
5:30 p.m. Business Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Dinner
- Sunday, March 26, 2006  
Prince Kuhio Day
- March 2006 - TBA  
HFD Retirees Association Quarterly  
Meeting  
HFD Training Center  
9:30 a.m.

## ALOHA, CHIEF LEONARDI

**W**ow! 35 years....where did it go? On January 15, 2006, it all comes to an end. It has been an honor and privilege to serve you as the Fire Chief for the past 7 years and 9 months. Remember when we started? We established many bold goals and objectives, both short and long range, with just one thing in mind. That was to make the HFD the best department in the nation with the best fire fighters in the nation. I'm happy to report that we have accomplished all that we set out to complete. We, as a team, have addressed every challenge and I owe all of our success to you, the best professional fire fighters in the nation.

People often ask me what I am most proud of about our Department. That's a difficult question because I am proud of everything we do. As long as we stay focused on our mission, continue our training, and prepare for new and future challenges, we will remain the best of the best. This is not as easy as it seems; however, it is imperative that we always be vigilant and address fire fighter safety along with the needs of the community we serve.

I am honored to be the first Fire Chief appointed by the Honolulu Fire Commission. Being under the Commission has truly insulated the HFD from political activities and has given us a sense of independence in the City. It has allowed us to develop long-range plans for the Department and has made the Fire Chief accountable to see those plans through to completion. This also allows for continuity of service and programs as we begin the transition of the new Fire Chief.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) program has had a huge impact on the HFD and our public image. We created

this program to market our Department as a business, to inform the public of the many great things our fire fighters do on a daily basis, and to educate the community on fire safety issues. Because of the PIO and the great job you all do, we are recognized as the best of the best. We are heroes in Hawaii.

I leave with a huge sense of accomplishment, no regrets, no second thoughts, and



I'd like to think that I'm leaving at the top of my game. As a team, we have been able to accomplish many great things. As individuals, all we can hope for is to make a difference in whatever we do. As I reach

the end of my fire fighting career, I hope that I've made a difference in our organization and that I left it a little better than when I started. I hope that you are as proud as I am of our many accomplishments.

Best wishes to the new administration. I hope that you all will support Fire Chief Designate Kenneth Silva and his leadership team as you have supported us these past (almost) eight years. Yes, I'm going to miss it; the challenges, camaraderie, and working with the best of the best. Thirty-five years ago, I came into the Department young and handsome...and I'm leaving young and handsome! What a job! Stay safe, a hui hou.





**PRIDE, SERVICE,  
DEDICATION**

**Honolulu Fire Department**  
**Attilio K. Leonardi, Fire Chief**  
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### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Honolulu Fire Department is to respond to fires, emergency medical incidents, hazardous materials incidents, and rescues on land and sea to save lives, property, and the environment. We accomplish this mission by:

- Promoting safety and maintaining a well equipped, highly trained, and motivated force of professional fire fighters and rescue personnel.
- Promoting fire prevention and other public safety education programs.

### **Vision Statement**

The Honolulu Fire Department will continuously strive to meet the changing needs of our community by providing a modern and technologically advanced department. We will do this by maintaining a high level of readiness and by focusing on the professional development and training of all our personnel.

## **MAHALO AND ALOHA**

### **BY ASSISTANT CHIEF ALVIN TOMITA**

**M**ahalo Chief Leo for your values, beliefs, and support, your guidance and patience, your leadership and mentoring, and most of all for your dedication and commitment to make our Department one of the best there is.

We appreciate your passion to have our fire fighters be the best of the best, and for obtaining the tools necessary for their safety and welfare, and getting the quality training for their development. Mahalo for your tenacity and drive to finish the necessary tasks to accomplish the many achievements during your tenure as Chief of the HFD in spite of the adversities that stood in your path.

Many of your accomplishments, such as the completion of our headquarters, the acquisition of our Training Center in fee for free, our fleet of modern equipment and apparatus,

and the new, replacement, or renovated stations just to name a few, will definitely benefit the future of the HFD, but unfortunately, many of us may not realize what it took on your part to get it done.

Few personnel witnessed first hand your tireless efforts to accomplish these tasks as well as the many others you undertook. They may never realize the personal sacrifice it took to get the appropriate education, training, and knowledge to get the job done, all the necessary networking, to uphold the trust that people had in you, and the national recognition and respect that you brought to the HFD.

Boss, it has been almost eight years and we can now say, "Wow, how quickly it went." Chief Leo, good luck in your retirement and mahalo and aloha, my friend.

### **Season's Greetings from the Executive Staff!**

#### **Stay safe.**





# DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN CLARK

by Fire Captain Kenui Spencer

After 35 years of public service, Deputy Fire Chief John Clark will retire on December 31, 2005. He was a Water Safety Specialist (Lifeguard in those days) in 1970, became a fire fighter in 1972, and served 33 years with the HFD. "It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the public all these years," says Chief Clark.

During his career, there have been a number of projects that Chief Clark is "personally proud of":

- In 1990, with retired Captain Richard Frost and Ana Horne (City Employee Assistance Program Counselor), created the first Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team. Today, CISM continues to provide a comprehensive, integrative, and multi-component crisis intervention system for all HFD employees.
- In 1999, attended the Commission on Fire Accreditation International's (CFAI) workshop in Louisville, Kentucky and returned to become the first CFAI accreditation manager for the HFD. With the assistance of other HFD members, he helped to get the HFD accredited in 2000. In 2005, the HFD was reaccredited with AC Charles Wassman as the accreditation manager.
- In 2001, as coordinator of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, spearheaded all the events including the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade, proclamation signing, Alexander J. Cartwright baseball game, anniversary dinner, and a commemorative yearbook.
- After the events of 9/11, as part of the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau "Sharing Aloha" Program, coordinated the HFD's interaction with 1,000 family members of the 343 fire fighters lost during the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.
- In 2005, assisted the International Fire Service Accreditation Committee by writing two brand new sets of national standards for fire departments -- Surf Rescue Operations and Surf Rescue Technician.
- Chief Clark is especially proud of the HFD Motto PRIDE, SERVICE, DEDICATION, which he created in 1998.



Chief Clark is well known for his knowledge of Hawaii's beaches. He is the author of six books on Hawaii's beaches by the University of Hawaii Press and is currently working on number seven. He is often consulted for his expertise on water safety and ocean recreation issues for environmental impact statements. He plans to return to writing books and consulting after leaving the HFD.

**The Honolulu Fire Department would like to  
say aloha and mahalo to Deputy Fire Chief  
John Clark for 33 years of Pride, Service,  
Dedication. A hui hou!**





# Moloka'i Hoe

By Fire Fighter 1 Joby Lapinad, L2/3

**C**ongratulations to the first ever all HFD paddling team who competed in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Molokai Hoe Canoe Race on October 9, 2005.

This event is considered to be the world championship of outrigger canoe racing, with crews from Tahiti, Australia, Singapore, Italy, Hawaii, and the rest of the world competing for the title. Starting at Hale O Lono Harbor on the island of Molokai, crews race 41 miles across the Kaiwi Channel and finish on Duke Kahanamoku Beach in Waikiki.

Motivation to form a paddling crew came as a way to honor the late Rescue Captain Kala Kukea by entering the pre-season race that bears his name. "Kala made my first paddle for me when I was 13-years old," says Rick Mauer. "I still have it on my wall." A quick mention to a couple of fire fighters and an instant crew was formed. "As a result of this event, the notion of doing the Molokai Hoe pretty much took on a life of its own," adds Rick.

The **"HONOLULU FIRE"** paddling crew consisted of nine active duty Honolulu fire fighters. With nine paddlers representing six different canoe clubs, there was an abundance of experience in the boat. But some hadn't paddled in a while. After a 16-year layoff, Jimmy Reyes' reasons for joining were simple. "I missed it," says Reyes, "Paddling was important to me, so when the opportunity presented itself, I jumped on it."

While most crews practice together all year long for this event, the Fire crew had little to work with. Through juggling work schedules, part time jobs, and family commitments we still found the time to train hard individually or in small groups. "It was a big commitment," says Danny Defries. "I was happy my family accommodated and supported me through it."

Using borrowed canoes from both Healani and Kailua canoe clubs, the guys would gather early before work or on common days off to get some much needed time on the water. Though all of the team members had done the Molokai Hoe in the past, no one was taking it lightly. A lot of the training came from individual efforts.

Race day presented choppy conditions with short rides through the channel. This, combined with a receding tide, made for less than ideal conditions and slower finishing times. "It was the hardest race I ever did," admits Rob Cates. Alik Winter laughs, "I don't think we would have survived if we weren't firemen."

Despite different strokes, conflicting schedules, minimal preparation, tough conditions, and the escort boat fiasco, the Fire crew was able to turn out a respectable 65<sup>th</sup> place out of 112 crews, completing the course in 7:01:57. Steersman Keoni Kino did an outstanding job with what he was given. "It was tough even for the seasoned crews," he says. "We did good for the 2-½ months we had." Dominic Marquez agrees. "We all worked as one because we all have something in common. Mentally we're strong."

The **"HONOLULU FIRE"** gang would like to say a big mahalo to the Kailua and Healani canoe clubs for all of their help and support, and to the Marquez Ohana for the awesome Molokai hospitality. We couldn't have done it without them.

Through all adversity, only support and appreciation for each other was shared. Our biggest challenges became our biggest triumphs. When asked if they would do it again, everyone replied, "Definitely!" As for me, it was a privilege to have been a part of what we hope will be an on-going tradition. We look forward to the possibilities for next year. So until then, stay in shape and *malama i ke kai*. Aloha, Joby

## The 2005 Crew (clockwise):

FF1 Dominic Marquez E31/2, FF3 Rob Cates E34/3, FF3 Danny Defries L29/3, FF2 Rick Mauer FCC, FF2 Alik Winter L29/3, FF3 Jimmy Reyes E2/2, Captain Keoni Kino R1/3, Captain Alan Carvalho R1/2, FF1 Joby Lapinad L2/3.





# RETIREEES' REALM

*by Fire Captain Gideon Awa, Retired*

**T**he Honolulu Fire Department Retirees Association extends our sincere wishes to everyone for a joyous, prosperous, and healthy Christmas and New Year holidays. **"Mele Kalikimaka a me ka Hauoli Makahiki Hou!!!"**

The Retirees Association wishes to extend our heartfelt appreciation and admiration to Fire Chief Attilio Leonardi and Deputy Fire Chief John Clark for their support of the association since its inception. We are very grateful to both Chiefs for being generous with their time to inform and update the retirees of the events and happenings within the Honolulu Fire Department. The Association commends both Fire Chiefs for "a job well done" and extends to them our best wishes in the next chapter of their lives.

The Retirees Association also wishes to extend our congratulations to the newly appointed Fire Chief Ken Silva and to his Deputy Fire Chief Alvin Tomita. We look forward a great relationship with the new Fire Chief and his Deputy to keep the association of retirees informed with updates relating to the Honolulu Fire Department and its uniformed personnel.

**Retirees' Meeting:** The next meeting is pending as it has not yet been scheduled with the HFD Training Center. All retired members are welcome to join your fellow retirees as members of the Honolulu Fire Department Retirees Association.

## **Reminder to all Retirees:**

1. **Review any change to your benefits relating to the Firemen's Fund Policy;** i.e., insurance policy, membership dues, and funeral benefits (Plans A-Burial in a plot owned by the fund, Plan B-Other burial or disposal of ash/total benefits, and additional funeral benefits for your spouse or dependent children).
2. **Update any of your personal information with the Firemen's Fund** (i.e., beneficiary, change of address, etc.)

**NOTE:** The Firemen's Fund policy was amended in March of 2004. Battalion Chief Hiram Keliipio is the Chair of the Firemen's Fund. Retired Fire Chief Donald Chang is the elected representative for the retirees on the board of the Firemen's Fund, Inc.

**HFD Retirees Association:** The association welcomes any correspondence from retirees of the Honolulu Fire Department. You may update your current address, pass on any information you wish to share with your fellow retirees, or provide input for our column in the HFD Newsletter, Hale Ahi News. Contact retired Fire Chief Donald Chang at (808) 487-8862.

## HFD KEIKI LEARN TO SURF DAY *by Fire Fighter III John Pregil, FCC*

**O**n the first weekend in November, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual HFD Keiki Learn to Surf Day was held at Kalaeloa Beach. Over 50 kids, ages 7-17, hit the surf with the Hawaiian Fire Crew. The weekend was blessed with perfect weather and consistent waves. Beach safety and technique instruction commenced at 11:30 a.m. followed by two hours of smiles, cheers, and laughter. The gang had the BBQ going with some teri burgers and hotdogs for the hungry new surfers and their parents. Each child walked away with a "I got my skills at Hawaiian Fire" t-shirt along with a photo CD of all the pictures taken that day.



To see all the keiki having a great time doing something that is so much a part of our culture was an awesome feeling

for everyone involved. Especially when so many kids now days find their entertainment in front of the TV or computer. To instill the love of surfing is a gift all surfers wish to pass on to their kids. The downside for the parents of course is that all the kids want brand new boards for Christmas! Mahalo to everyone for making this event a success! We're looking forward to next year! A hui hou!





# Fire Commissioner Sandra Au Fong

*by Battalion Chief Edmund Suzuki*



I met Fire Commissioner Sandra (Sandy) Au Fong and her husband, Marvin Fong, in their offices nestled in the Market City Shopping Center. Since 1985, Sandy has been part of the family-owned business, Market City, Ltd., which owns Market City Shopping Center and Market Place West in Oregon. As we talked, I felt her energy and enthusiasm while sharing her life with me through the Hale Ahi Newsletter.

She was born and raised in Hawaii as the third generation of Chinese immigrants. She grew up on Halekoa Drive and has fond memories of playing dodge ball and walking to Woolworths at Kahala Mall (now the site of Longs Drugs) with her friends. She didn't know it at the time, but her grandfather would influence her later in life by stressing hard work, supporting her in whatever she did, and stressing the idea of "be true to yourself."

The family would move many times, but finally set down roots in a \$10,000 home in Hawaii Kai. Just try and find a house for that amount now! Living in Hawaii Kai, she attended Kalani High School and would often visit Hanauma Bay on hot summer afternoons to cool off. At eighteen years of age, she entered the Narcissus Pageant and was named "Third Princess." Not bad for an 18-year old competing against 21-year olds.

Sandy went on to college where she obtained degrees in Fashion Merchandising and Business Administration from the University of Hawaii. She also attended George Fox College in Newburg, Oregon, and American University in Washington, D.C. For a brief time, she worked as a flight attendant for Aloha Airlines, but found out that as the junior attendant she would be placed on propeller planes, which were notorious for having engine fires. Needless to say, she quickly left the flying to others.

Later, she received her real estate license and spent the next ten years in real estate; starting off as a real estate agent for Stark Realty, then opening her own company, Sandy Fong Realty, Inc., and later managing commercial space for Monroe and Friedlander. This provided her with the knowledge and experience to, in 1985, join Market City, Ltd. where she continues to oversee the leasing and marketing aspect of the business. Market City, Ltd., at one time, owned and managed the site of the old Kress store in Hilo and a shopping mall in Eugene, Oregon.

In the late 90s, Sandy was asked by the Mayor Harris Administration to serve as a Fire Commissioner. She was frank in saying that she didn't know anything about being a Fire Commissioner, but did have the greatest respect for fire fighters because they put their lives on the line, saved lives, and were highly trained. She accepted the position immediately, and was part of the original group of Fire Commissioners. She has held a position on the Commission for nine years.

Sandy has been with Chief Attilio K. Leonardi from the beginning of his appointment and has nothing but high praise for his accomplishments. She noted that under his direction, the Department has successfully been accredited two times, developed and implemented a certification program, acquired the fee for the training center, commenced building of the new headquarters, and much more.

Sandy has enjoyed her time and has learned a lot as a commissioner. Unfortunately, her term expires in January 2006 when she will hand over the reins to her successor. She sees the newer Fire Commissioners having to prepare for pandemics such as the avian bird flu, terrorism, and natural disasters as seen with Hurricane Katrina. There's also the possible merger with Emergency Medical Services.

After "retiring" as a Fire Commissioner, Sandy will continue with her busy schedule managing the family business, spending time with her family and two dogs, and participating in the many community groups she is part of. I believe the Department is better for her leadership and she will sorely be missed. I know for sure that we have gained a fire fighter supporter for life!



## Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Radiological/ Nuclear Course for Hazmat Technicians

By Fire Captain James Todd



**W**ow! I was on my way to attend this course in Bechtel, Nevada. What did I get myself into? I was headed for some uncharted waters. I had been in the Fire Prevention Bureau for the past eight years, and the last time I touched a radiological device was a couple of years before that. I was accompanied by five other Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) fire fighters: Dave Takehara, Clifford Rigsbee, Moku Simon, Cris Bartolome, and Park Tachikabe.

With a good attitude and willingness to learn, I embarked on my journey. I arrived in Las Vegas early Sunday morning and was staying at the Golden Nugget. If you arrived on Sunday, you could partake in whatever Las Vegas had to offer until the next morning. The next morning, we met the other participants in a ballroom. The staff briefed us while we were treated to a continental breakfast. We were then assigned to the Alpha or Bravo group (Bravo group is the best, sorry Cris) and boarded buses to the WMD site in the Nevada desert.

Participants were scheduled to stay at the on-site quarters for the next three days. I liked staying at these quarters because I didn't have to ride the bus back and forth to downtown Las Vegas early in the morning and late in the evening. That undoubtedly saved me some money and provided me with the rest that I needed to be attentive in class. The only complaint I had about my quarters was that the showerhead was too low. The water spray hit me in the chest!

There were approximately 100 students from different fields of work (fire, police, EMS, freight inspectors, etc.) with various levels of expertise. The Office of Domestic Preparedness staff taught the class in such a way that no matter what your ability level was, you would learn and be confident with the material and devices provided to you. There was a good mix of classroom and hands-on activities at different locations at the facility. The program was also well funded so that all of the logistical needs were met.

What I found to be inspiring about the class was that we went to the sites where the United States military set off nuclear blasts in the 1950s-1980s. Our class picture was taken next to one of the craters that a nuclear blast created, and each student was presented with a CD to print the picture. You have to be there to understand the size of the crater and the amount of earth that was displaced by this event.

Our class was also the first that was offered an optional Train-the-Trainer course for WMD Radiological/Nuclear Awareness, which I took on the last night. On the last day, we had a good combination of classroom testing and equipment field-testing. The staff prepared us for the final exam, so there was no anxiety about passing the test. At the end of the day, certificates were distributed and goodbyes were exchanged.

Soon after, we were on a bus to the Golden Nugget to pull the Las Vegas all-nighter and leave in the morning. Congratulations to Moku Simon for winning the overnight poker tournament at Binion's; I placed eighth.

The course was extremely valuable in raising my awareness of radiological preparedness and response. I would recommend this course to any HFD fire fighter, and you don't have to be a Hazmat Technician to benefit from this program. I am proof of that.



## Senator Inouye Assists the HFD

The HFD recognizes Senator Daniel Inouye for his assistance in obtaining the Training Center property from the Navy and for his continued support of the Fire Service in Hawaii with grants for equipment and training.





# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK DISPLAY

This year's Fire Prevention Week Display Contest was held on October 9-15, 2005. Three finalists from each of the five battalions were submitted by their respective Battalion Chiefs for best conveying this year's theme, "Use Candles with Care," artistic design and composition, and originality. After the final judging and selection of the winners, awards were distributed at the October Staff Meeting. Congratulations to the winners and to all personnel for a job well done.



**1st Place**  
**Station 3-Makiki**  
 \$100 Gift Certificate  
 for each Platoon

**2nd Place**  
**Station 25-Nuuanu**  
 \$50 Gift Certificate  
 for each Platoon



**3rd Place**  
**Station 12-Waipahu**  
 \$25 Gift Certificate  
 for each Platoon



# HFD CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS

This year, the HFD's Christmas display theme was "Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season." Winners of the display contest were announced at the December Staff Meeting. Pride, Service, Dedication were demonstrated to the communities that we serve and the safety message was displayed very creatively and in an entertaining manner. Displays are on view from December 16, 2005, to January 3, 2006. Congratulations to all personnel for the awesome displays!



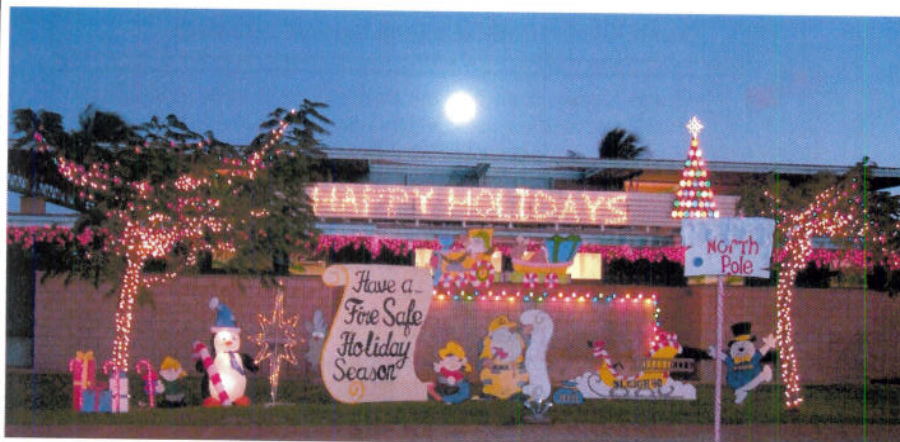
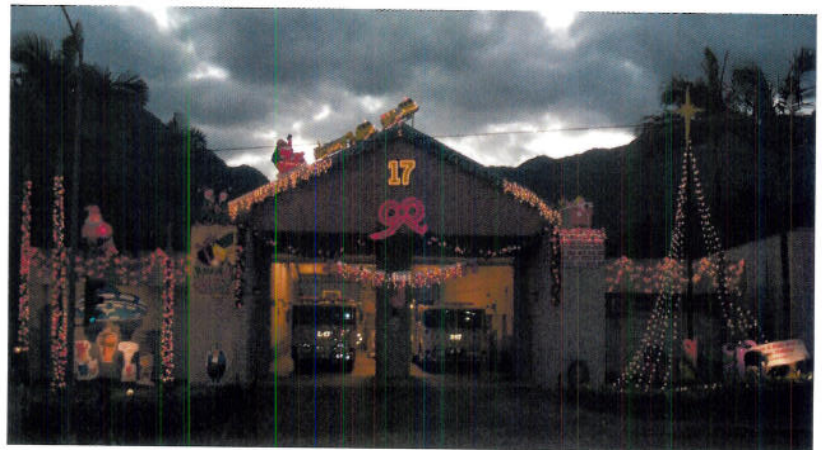
## 1st Place Station 13

\$100 Gift Certificate  
for each Platoon



## 2nd Place Station 17

\$50 Gift Certificate  
for each Platoon



## 3rd Place Station 40

\$25 Gift Certificate  
for each Platoon



# ALOHA FROM IRAQ

FIRE CAPTAIN DAVID KAHANU



Fire Fighter 1 Alike Nalwai and Fire Captain David Kahanu proudly display their HFD flag.



Left: Sergeant Devon Komatsubara, son of retired FF1 Keith Komatsubara, at a Iraqi farewell ceremony.

Devon Komatsubara, Stanton Horiuchi, and I work alongside of Iraqi Army soldiers since arriving here in February. On 16Dec05, they were transferred to a new duty assignment and we attended their farewell formation. It was a touching and sad event, just like it was when we first left Hawaii to head off to war. A lot of the Hawaii guys worked day to day alongside of these Iraqis and bonded quite well. Therefore, to see them off was a happy, yet somber event.

I have only 12 days left (as of 12/16) here. I will be leading the advance party home, and will hopefully be home for New Years! The real celebration will be in late January when every one of the Hawaii soldiers arrives home safely.

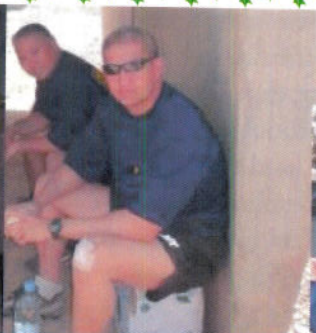
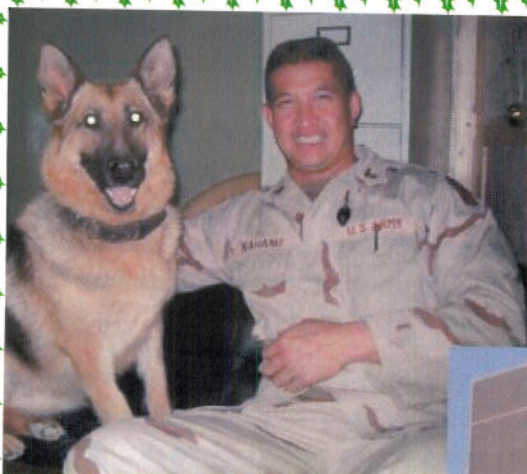
Thanks for everything you have done to support us. See you soon!





Left: Specialist Stanton Horiuchi, son of Sheldon Horiuchi (E40/3), being recognized with the Army Commendation Award by General Joseph Chaves, 29th Brigade Combat Team Commander, for meritoriously exceptional service in Iraq.

Below: Captain Kahanu with two Iraqi Army soldiers.



*Merry Christmas from Iraq,  
And a Happy New Year's too,  
Here are some pictures,  
From Me to You!!!!*

*Hoooooah,  
Love and Aloha  
DUKE*





# HFD Bands

by Battalion Chief Edward Simeona

The tradition of having a fire department band goes back a long time, and this writer is privileged to have been a part of that tradition in the mid-1980s. Today, the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) has two bands that are utilized through the Community Relations Office (CRO). As you look at these photos, what do you think the bands' responsibilities were? Because we do not have much information, we can only speculate what each band did or what type of music they provided.



**"Hale Ahi"** began their run in 1983 with the vision and coordination of then Assistant Chief Sidney Wilson and Battalion Chief Douglas Clark. Chief Clark's responsibility was to send a team of Fire Prevention personnel to provide fire safety education to the public. It became clear that music allowed our personnel to provide their safety message to many people. Thus was born the idea for a Public Relations (PR) team. The first PR I was Fire Fighter III Ed Gabriel. He and Hale Ahi spent the next nine years traveling island-wide to provide fire safety

information and smooth, classic, and contemporary Hawaiian music with a ukulele, rhythm and lead guitars, electric bass, and beautiful four-part harmony vocals.

After nine years, it was time for Hale Ahi members to move forward in their careers, and it was very important to find a replacement group to accommodate the many appearance requests. The HFD's mascot "Sparky" was conceived in early 1992, and the new kids on the block became **"Fire House."** FF III Gabriel was now a Fire Captain; he and the PR office then came under the administration of the Deputy Fire Chief. The music shifted to Top 40, jazz, easy listening, oldies, and the



occasional Hawaiian tune. Fire House added the sounds of drums, percussions, and cool saxophone tones as they proceeded on their tour of duty that continues until today. Though their membership has decreased in the past few years, their sound has never skipped a beat. They also evolved from giving fire safety tips to providing music for official City functions, black tie affairs, HFD programs, and everything in between.

After 13 years, it is now time to find some new blood to continue the tradition. Welcome **"Ahi Wela,"** three fire fighters with strong ties to traditional nahenahe falsetto and three-part vocal renditions. Back to the tradition of

two guitars and an upright bass, the HFD's newest music group is now part of the CRO. Together, these groups will continue the long and varied traditions of a fire department band.

What's after Ahi Wela? Who knows. If the pictures could talk, what might they tell us? The love of Hawaiian music keeps all of us, from the early 1900s until today, bound together in tradition. Whether the days of old had fire fighters playing for the annual Fireman's Ball, station and family luaus, or just to while away the hours of a fire fighter's daily schedule, we may never know...but we can dream and imagine, can't we?



The tradition continues!





# First Thirty Days

by Fire Captain Sigmund Oka

For anyone who is assigned to suppression on a 56-hour work schedule, a move to a 40-hour special assignment anywhere would be comparable to diverting the flow of the Yangtze River. It is an understatement to say that this kind of change would be difficult. Anyone who would venture into this arena would have to talk to his or her family about a lifestyle adjustment. In addition, a "pause" should be in place in case you need to reconsider, before making the final commitment to navigate the waters of "professional development."

## Team Concept

Assistant Chief Tomita's (F3) mantra "team" is embraced on a daily basis. I reported to Operations on October 17, 2005, and during the first week of work, I attended meetings, conferences, and classes. F3 introduces me as a "team member" whenever we meet key individuals who network with the Department. This exposure was built into my assignments because of the team concept. This comprehensive involvement made the assignment interesting, and therefore, very appealing. You know a positive work environment exists when the question, "Where has all the time gone?" is asked.

## Learning the Ropes

As a "team member," I was assigned a desk diagonal to F3's secretary, Maili Simmons. This location proved to be invaluable. Like her counterparts for their area of expertise, Maili is our hub

for Operations. She is the only clerical support currently assigned to the Division. Her briefings laid the groundwork for my ability to process my assignments. F3 and BC Leong started me off with a variety of assignments, which fell into four categories, purchasing, scheduling, distributing, and data recovery. These categories are interwoven to support the suppression companies.

## What the Future Holds

The civilian personnel "upstairs" have asked me for the length of time that I will be assigned to headquarters and I've replied, "Six months." I took note to their reactions - usually a smile or sometimes even a laugh and then they would just walk away. I understand what they are alluding to, and I still accept the duration of this assignment. I can see that Operations has to manage for results, which requires staffing. This article describes Operations to be task oriented, which results in the support of suppression, directly or in a roundabout way. It is all about helping the uniformed personnel to do what they do best, "Save lives and properties."

In the near future, I know that I will see more of my peers at headquarters plying the waters of "professional development." By sailing these waters, they will find satisfaction in working with and through their peers, completing tasks in spite of the endless flow, and discovering the hidden benefits provided to them as an "administrative" fire fighter.

# APPARATUS 94

by Battalion Chief Douglas Hooper

Back in 1965, when an HFD retirement dinner at the Queen's Surf cost "\$3.35 tax included," HFD was the proud recipient of a new Crown Coach Corporation fire apparatus.



Apparatus 94 was a 1965 Crown Pumper. It had a six-cylinder 324 H.P. Hall Scott gasoline engine with a five-speed Spicer transmission. The fire pump was a Waterous two-stage 1250 GPM centrifugal pump. Cost: \$34,233.

On January 18, 1965, the HFD's Mechanic Shop accepted delivery from Pier 2, and on February 12, 1965, Apparatus 94 was delivered to the Pearl City Station as the new Engine 20. After two weeks of training and familiarization, E20 was put into commission on February 25, 1965, at 3:45 p.m. The crew on duty that day was Captain Edward Yamada, FEOII George Kamaiopili, FF's Delwin Beazley and Peter Kaapuni. Abner Hinau was on "J" day. At 7:57 p.m., E20 was dispatched to "94-979 Nalii to assist #12 Co. house fire." At the incident, a 3-year old child, who was overcome by smoke, was revived by fire personnel using a resuscitator. This incident was Apparatus 94's first alarm of a long and illustrious career as a fire apparatus of HFD.

After 10 years of service as E20, Apparatus 94 was reassigned to Station 16 on August 12, 1975. E16 saw another 15 years of service as a first-line apparatus. In June 1990, Apparatus 94 was "bumped down" to become a relief apparatus. For two more years, R36 served as a relief apparatus when in March of 1992 Apparatus 94 became Trng 3. Its career not yet over, Trng 3 continued to be used as a Driver Training vehicle for another 12 years.

In July 2004, Trng 3 was retired from service and later sold to Hawaii Metal Recycling Co. (HMR) for scrap. On June 23, 2005, Mechanic Shop Superintendent Charlie Bright and I went to HMR to witness the scrapping of Apparatus 94. As we watched, a silence fell upon us. We both stood watching with our own thoughts as to how the life of such a noble piece of equipment should meet such a fate. Later, Charlie said he got a little "choked up" witnessing the event. Had I known the history of this piece of equipment before hand, especially its first alarm accomplishment, I am quite sure a tear or two would have welled up.

Take care, be safe, and treasure your apparatus.





# PAWA'A SQUID TOURNAMENT

by Fire Fighter 3 Jason Mejia, E2/3

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pawa'a Squid Tournament was held on September 16, 2005, at the beautiful Kane'ohe Bay. Fire fighters from throughout the Department, along with family and friends, gathered at 9 a.m. at the He'eia Kea boat ramp and set out for four hours of fun in the bay, followed by a reception at the He'eia State Park. Each participant received a tournament mug, a t-shirt designed by Rob Ishihara and Clyde Sasaki, and numerous door prizes provided by many generous sponsors. And who can forget the 'ono lunch



provided by our favorite chef, retired fire fighter Mike Noguchi, and assisted by fellow retiree Randy Ishihara and Fire Fighter 3 Keith Kanno.

The Pawa'a Squid Tournament originally started during the early 1970's by Station 2 personnel, and was brought back to life in 2002 by Bary Ewaliko of Ladder 2/3. Not only does this tournament promote camaraderie amongst fire fighters throughout the department, it perpetuates the long-standing Hawaiian tradition of squid hunting with an emphasis on respect and conservation of our ocean resources. Congratulations to the following winners, who are listed by category:

## Largest Squid:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Steve Barrett (6lbs., 14oz.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Mel Ferreira (5lbs., 14oz.)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Clay Madrona (5lbs., 2oz.)

## Total Weight Squid-2 pieces:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jay Shimabuku (9lbs., 6oz.)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Brad Chang (9lbs., 1oz.)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Mark Adams (8lbs., 12oz.)

## Largest Fish:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Casey Ferreira (2lbs., 7oz.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Dan Loui (1lb., 12oz.)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Bary Ewaliko (12oz.)

## Total Weight Fish:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Larry Yamamoto (2lbs., 6oz.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Alan Nitta (13oz.)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Lance Ohara (8oz.)

This event was made possible by the hard work of many people. First and foremost, a special thanks goes out to Bary Ewaliko for reviving and coordinating this event. Chuck Spencer, Joby Lapinad, Casey Ferreira, and Tracy Masuda, along with other Station 2 personnel worked hard on the organization committee. But most of all, mahalo nui loa to all of you who came out and participated in this tradition. We hope to see you next year at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pawa'a Squid Tournament!

## HFD's Flying Hawaiians Place First in Hazmat Olympics

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Hazmat Continuing Challenge in Sacramento, California was a historic visit for the contingency from the Honolulu Fire Department. A top-notch team named the Flying Hawaiians recently won first place in the Hazmat Olympic competition, which was held during the annual conference from September 5 to 9, 2005. Never in the history of the conference has a team outside of California ever won the Hazmat Olympics.

The team was comprised of three members from HFD, Captain Sonny Maguire and FF3s Dean Randall and Brian Soares. The fourth team member was Captain Linda Collister of the Santa Rosa Fire Department Hazmat Team. Together, the Flying Hawaiians took first place in every event of the three-day competition.

### **The Competition**

The three-day competition required fast thinking, extensive hazmat knowledge, and excellent physical abilities.

Day one required the recovery of small objects in a pool while wearing double gloves, boots, and eye protection. There was also a HAZCAT (hazardous categorization) competition that required the identification of six unknowns within 12 minutes.

On day two, the teams had to respond to a one-ton chlorine cylinder leak and multiple pipe prop leaks on a trailer equal in height to a railroad car.

Day three was a three-stage event of sample taking by one member in PPEs who passed the sample bag to another member in

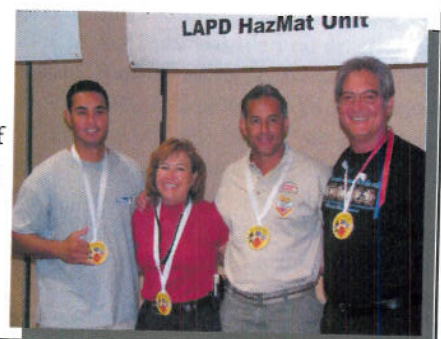
Level A who then crossed a swimming pool in the water and passed the sample to the final two members who sealed multiple leaks on a 55-gallon drum. All team members then gathered at the final prop with hands raised to complete their time.

The new champions of the Hazmat Continuing Challenge received first place medals and certificates, golf bag watches, and other mementos of the special occasion. In addition, each team member received full registration grants to next year's competition, the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Hazmat Continuing Challenge in 2006, which is the equivalent of \$1,400, and a chance to defend their new title.

### **More Victories!**

The historic visit did not end there. On Monday, September 5, a team comprised of Captains Dave Kawasaki and Kenneth Yone-mura, FF3 Brian Soares, and Hazmat Instructor Michael Callan won the Continuing Challenge Golf Tournament.

Congratulations to the HFD's Flying Hawaiians on a fabulous and historic effort, the new defending champions of the Hazmat Continuing Challenge Hazmat Olympics, and the champions of the golf tournament!







## RETIREMENTS



### Stanley K. Hookano - Fire Fighter I

April 1, 1969 - September 30, 2005

33 years, 7.5 months

### James F. Titcomb - Fire Fighter III

December 1, 1980 - September 30, 2005

24 years, 10 months

### Alfred N. Akau - Fire Captain

August 20, 1973 - November 30, 2005

32 years, 3 months

### Richard M. C. Bulacan - Fire Captain

December 1, 1980 - November 30, 2005

25 years

### Alan W. Y. Chong - Fire Captain

November 18, 1974 - November 30, 2005

31 years

### Daniel H. Kapuniai Jr. - Fire Captain

October 16, 1971 - November 30, 2005

34 years, 1.5 months

MAHALO AND ALOHA

## CIVILIAN CORNER

### Alyson Nishimura

Executive Secretary  
Fire Chief's Office

The Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) will say aloha to one of its family members, Alyson Nishimura, who has been Deputy Fire Chief John Clark's secretary for the past 2-½ years. She will be leaving the HFD on January 15, 2006, to return to the field of marketing and event planning.

"It has been a wonderful experience to be a part of the HFD. Before I started working here, I thought the fire department only put out fires and took care of hazmat situations. Now I realize that the fire fighters do so much more than that. They help remove children from locked vehicles, rescue people stuck in elevators, and go on a million medical calls. I have a tremendous amount of respect for the fire fighters and all they do for the residents of Hawaii."

I asked Alyson if she had some parting words for us. She replied, "I want to thank everybody for being so helpful to me during my time here. It is really hard to leave such an incredible organization. I am proud to have been a part of the HFD and this I say with pride. I will miss working in the front office. Thank you, Chief Leonardi, for allowing me to be a part of your team."

Like everyone that becomes part of the HFD family, Alyson will always be our HFD Sister no matter where she may go. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



## HFD 2005 RETIREES DINNER

For the seventh consecutive year, the HFD will honor its retirees at special dinner banquet. This year's event will be on Friday, March 10, 2006, at the Pacific Beach Hotel from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

All retirees will receive a Maltese cross koa plaque, fire fighter helmet, congratulatory certificate, and color photograph. The honorees and their families will join new Fire Chief Kenneth Silva and Deputy Fire Chief Alvin Tomita for a commemorative photograph. A group photograph will also be taken.

This year's video promises to be the evening's highlight and will feature pictures of each retiree that span at least 25 years. Bill Melemai and Kawika Morgan are again working to create an entertaining presentation.

The Fire Prevention Bureau, headed by Battalion Chief Lloyd Rogers, is coordinating the event. Each retiree and one guest may attend at no charge, compliments of the HFD's Federal Credit Union, Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, and Friends of the Firehouse. The cost for other guests, family, and friends is \$40 per person. Please RSVP no later than Friday, February 17, 2006.

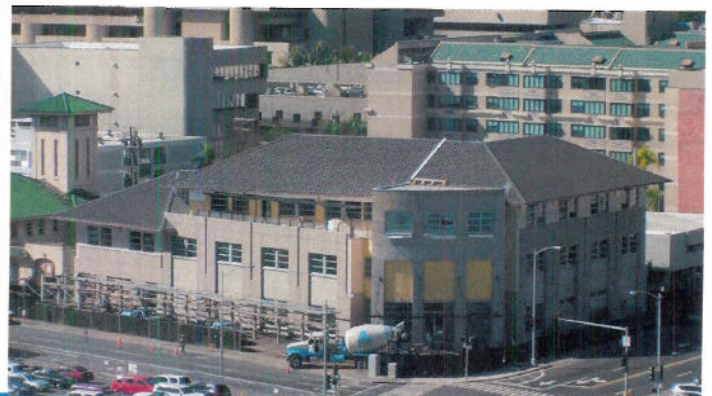
Make your reservations now with Brendalyn Hankins or Janine Leong-Lau at 831-7765 or 831-7764, respectively.

## SAD NEWS

By Fire Chief Attilio K. Leonardi

It is with regret that I report the delay of the opening of our new headquarters and educational museum. Although our contractors promised that the headquarters and museum would be ready for dedication on January 11, 2006, we are now informed that the complex will not be completed until the end of February.

Therefore, it was decided that the ceremony will not be held until March 2006. However, on January 17, 2006, the Honolulu Fire Department's "Change of Command" ceremony will be held at Honolulu Hale at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend and welcome in the new administration.





## ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

### 25 Years

Steven K. Aiu  
Douglas C. Bechert  
Richard M. Bulacan  
Carter W. Davis  
William H. Donnelly  
Edward A. Hunter  
Hiram K. Keliipio  
Asa K. Tanaka  
James F. Titcomb  
Leo Van Titcomb Jr.



### 15 Years

Robert P. Abbley  
Ernest K. Ahlo  
George K. Davis  
Dean A. Demello  
Tay A. Enos  
Carl A. Farden III  
Warren L. Faurot  
Dean T. Hakikawa  
Thomas M. Hearty  
Dean C. Hernandez Sr.  
Erik S. Iwanaga  
David W. Kahanu Jr.  
Joseph H. Kemmler  
Eugene Kon Jr.  
Glenn S. Kuwamura  
Michael J. Lee  
Kenton F. Leong  
Nelson H. Makua



Wayne K. Masuda  
Robert T. Moss  
Simeon K. Pihana  
Dean W. Randall  
Corey L. Silva  
Charles E. Spencer  
Lloyd A. Trujillo  
Timothy C. Turgeon  
Sidney K. Yim

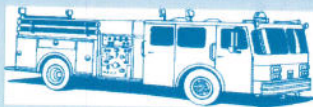


### 10 Years

Thomas E. How  
Mark E. Sue

### 5 Years

Jon W. Dean, Jr.  
Vance E. Peter



## LAST ALARM



### FIRE CAPTAIN WALTER T. KOANUI, SR.

**September 29, 2005**

Appointed June 16, 1962

26 years, 6 months

Last Assignment - Ladder 30/2

### FIRE FIGHTER II ARTHUR I. AKIONA

**October 1, 2005**

Appointed October 1, 1971

32 years, 1 month

Last Assignment - Ladder 17/2

### FIRE CAPTAIN HAROLD K. MISHIMA

**October 16, 2005**

Appointed September 16, 1960

24 years, 10 months

Last Assignment - Snorkel 9/1



### FIRE CAPTAIN EDMOND K. JONES, SR.

**November 6, 2005**

Appointed August 16, 1948

27 years, 9 months

Last Assignment - Ladder 30/1

### FIRE CAPTAIN JAMES Y. F. SOONG

**November 13, 2005**

Appointed August 22, 1951

27 years, 4 months

Last Assignment - Engine 13/3

### FIRE CAPTAIN RICHARD PERRY

**November 17, 2005**

Appointed June 16, 1962

33 years

Last Assignment - Ladder 34/3

